

WRESTLING FORUM

MAY 15, 1987

VOLUME II

ISSUE 9

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STAFF

Jon Gallagher-Editor

Sean Grande-New York

Jeff Siegel-World Class

Ed Garea-Phantom of the Ring

Wrestling Forum is published the 15th and 30th of each month and mailed the following day. All material copy-right © Jon Gallagher 1987. All rights reserved.

OUT OF THE DARK AGES

Before getting into the usual stuff that we do, I wanted to let you all know, Harry White in particular, that I have stepped out of the dark ages and bought a VHS recorder. I still own my beta machine and will continue to use it (the picture quality is MUCH better) but now I can watch the Florida, Memphis, and UWF tapes that I get without having to wait until they all come in and go and rent a VHS machine. I figured I was spending about \$20-30 per month just renting, and a local store offered this machine (complete with wireless remote [wow], HQ something or other, and a whole bunch of other stuff that I don't understand) for just \$219.99. And no, after a whole week, I haven't found the "catch" yet. Let you know when I do.

I'd like to thank you all for all the kind words and well wishes during the past couple of weeks. As our regular readers know, I've just come through a very tough time in my life and you all have helped to ease the strain.

For those of you following the soap opera job search of mine, it appears that it may be over. The company out in Cleveland has made a very attractive offer that will be hard to pass up. They even said that doing the newsletter would be no problem (that is, they wouldn't object). I will not be moving, but I will have to go to Cleveland for a week's worth of training. Tentatively, the training is set for June 1-5. If any of you in that area would like to help keep a very scared, lonely newsletter editor company (or you just want to run over to the local Pizza Hut) let me know, and I'll have further updates as to times, location of the motel, etc. All I know right now is that I would be scheduled to leave Peoria Airport on June 1st in the afternoon, arriving in Cleveland however long it takes to get from here to there. And by any means, if there is any wrestling in the area between those dates, let me know about that too. I may not have a lot of time to spend socializing, so be sure and call first. I'm told there will be plenty of "home-work" given at the school.

One other thing of special note: You will notice a name missing from our staff on the front cover. John Hunter, our legal eagle up in Chicagoland has

decided to leave our staff...sort of. We decided that should the situation ever come up that he would have to represent us in court, it would be a conflict on interest if he were on the actual writing staff. It's no big deal...he will still work with us, and he will continue to write legal pieces as they are appropriate. Basically the only change (other than officially he's not on staff) will be his name missing from the front cover.

A welcome to our new readers, and a thank you to those of you who continue to renew. We publish on the 15th and 30th of each month with the mailing taking place the next day. Prices are \$1.25 per issue and you can subscribe in any multiple upto six months (\$15.00 maximum). Don't hesitate to contribute anything... we take results or anything else we can get our hands on even if it's just your thoughts. We survive only through contributions.

This issue marks another first...Jeff Siegel, has done the feature article (along with his regular World Class report) and his father put together a little trip down memory lane. I know there's been father son wrestlers and promoters, but have there ever been a father son newsletter writing team? Well, if there has been, it's never been as good as this one.

Interesting note: Whilst pursuing my job search, I came across a "help wanted ad" in one of the arena programs that Bill Wilson send me from the Central States area. It said something about needing network marketers. Turns out Rufus R. Jones was behind it, and I'm not quite sure what it was. His wife promised to send me a cassette tape detailing the thing, but I've not received anything yet (been ten days now). I got this sneaking suspicion it may have been Amway. Let you know if anything else comes out of this.

A reminder also, if you haven't yet, please vote in our imaginary tournament. Details are in last issue and again in this one if we have the space.

Meanwhile, there's lots going on in the world of wrestling. Let's get on with the news of the past couple of weeks...

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Big news out of here is the AWA title situation. Once again, an attempt to change the titleholder has been screwed up.

Since ESPN gave part of the details on their last broadcast (but the AWA gave them in such a messed up way it was extremely hard to follow), let me try to straighten things out. SUPERCLASH II was held on May 2 in the Cow Palace in San Francisco with Nick Bockwinkel defending the belt against Curt Hennig. Before the match Larry Zbyszko came to ringside to challenge the winner. The match progressed pretty much as a babyface match with both wrestlers using very subtle heel moves. The end came with both men down on the mat, Curt being closest to the ropes. Larry apparently handed Curt a foreign object (a roll of coins), Curt and Nick both got up and Curt decked him, covering him for the pin. The referee gave the title to Curt, but Ray Stevens and Stanley Blackburn came to the ring and told the referee what had happened. At that point, Blackburn decided to hold up the belt pending further investigation.

The problem here is that Curt had been promised the title, but has now decided to vacate the AWA for the WWF. This leaves the AWA without a champion. I would imagine that the title will be returned to Nick. My problem is, I can't believe how difficult the AWA makes a title change! The Midnight Rockers should have been champs months ago except for screw job endings. Nick had to be handed the title in Denver last June. After 25 years of promoting wrestling, you'd think that Verne has learned how to do a title change without controversy and without screwing up. Oh, well.

I understand that the reason they didn't show the actual title bout on ESPN was because there was a problem with the audio portion of the bout itself. Seems that even when Curt used the foreign object to win, the crowd still went wild cheering him. Naturally the AWA didn't want that to be broadcast nationwide, so they just elected to do the cut up interviews that left everyone confused. You would think that they would just show the match with a Larry Nelson voice over, but I guess since they weren't intelligent enough to figure out how to remix the sound, they also didn't think of doing that. Instead, they showed the exciting rerun of Sherri Martel vs Depina Montagues from a few weeks ago. It's no wonder that ESPN has hidden them at 11:00pm (central) on Saturday nights!

I was shocked when Bill Watts sold out, and I didn't think anything else would shake me like that, but this next came close. After NBC's Saturday Night's Main Event, I flipped over to the AWA and parading across my screen was none other than Sergeant Slaughter! How bout that (as Crusher use to say)! He teamed up with Jerry Blackwell against Boris Zhulov and the Blaster (does the audience at the Showboat have to pay to watch this trash or does the AWA pay them for being there?). After the match was over (the heels lost then ran from the ring), Jerry got on the house mike and called Sheik Adnon El Kaissey a chicken spit (pardon my typo). This did make it to the airwaves.

That leads me to a whole 'nother subject. The use of profanity by wrestlers. There's a time and place for everything, and in front of a wrestling audience or on national TV is not one of them. The AWA is absolutely the worst offender on this. The WWF wrestlers don't use it (at least on the house mike) and the NWA limits it to just a bare minimum. But it seems that an AWA show is not complete without a whole

barage of this kind of language. A report on a recent card in Salt Lake City made it clear that Sherri Martel is one of the foulest mouthed "ladies" in the sport. She was throwing the queen mother of all swear words around combining them with ethnic insults that would have made a dock worker blush.

Wrestling is family entertainment. Sure there's violence, but adding vulgar language to such an atmosphere is not acceptable in my book. If I want to teach my daughter to swear, I'll teach her at home, not at the wrestling matches.

The swearing is used for one main purpose: Creating heat. That's all. Well, instead of wrestlers taking the easy route and swearing, you'd think they'd take the time to learn how to do it in other ways. Ken Timbs (of Central States) does an excellent job with just a comb. Managers like Downtown Bruno (Memphis) and Jim Cornette can insult members of the audience without turning the air blue. they have taken the time to learn their craft rather than going the cheap route. Any idiot can swear. It takes someone intelligent to create heat without swearing. I guess that's the difference.

(Even though I am at times prone to using abusive language myself, I would never do it for a cheap sensational shock. You'll notice the most abusive word we've ever used here in the Forum has been [gasp] "ass".)

Other AWA notes...the Russian team of Boris Zhukov and Ustinov have been winning the tag team tournaments they've been holding across the country. They have been beating the Midnight Rockers in the finals to set up future return dates. Gagnellogic at work again.

What do you do when your live cards don't sell enough tickets to pay the bills? You start selling Ninja Star Wars sets on TV. From what I can tell, they consist of little throwing stars, a vest that they stick to (probably velcro), and eye guards so you don't get stuck in the eye. You can have your own set for just \$19.99 (plus postage and handling) or you can be named fan of the week by the AWA and get a set free to top off your embarrassment.

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

by Howard Siegel

Just a few odd, but interesting notes garnered from my memory of 30+ years of following pro wrestling:

The only wrestler ever to drop kick an opponent and land back on his feet was Marvin Mercer, a near 200 pounder who campaigned in the new york/East Coast area in the late 40's/early 50's. he was a semi-finalist in the big arenas, a finalist in the smaller places.

The fore runner of the figure four leg lock as we now know it was Lord James Blears' "Oxford Leg Strangle". It was later picked up by Davey Johns who used it as a finisher after applying an Oklahoma Avalanche or roll.

Hector G. Lasertron's costume reminds me of the one worn by Carl Engstrom, a not so bad wrestler who appeared on many of the Gagne TV shows that emanated from the Marigold Arena, Chicago during the 50's and 60's. Carl changed his appearance and became, "Zuma, the Man from Mars" and entered the ring in a costume similar to the Lasertron bit, except that he wore a helmet that had two antennae protruding from it. Several times, in executing his airplane spin, the opponent would get snagged on one of the antenna, and his trunks would start to come off as he hit the canvas. The Zuma bid did not last long; my guess is that the costume was too cumbersome to work in.

The fore runners of the Von Erich stable so far as number of true blood relatives participating at the same time is concerned, were the Baillergeons of Canada. Each was a bundle of muscle and sinew who exhibited great strength and nothing else. They were slow and not very versatile; but for the 50's, a refreshing novelty. Their pet hold, as you can understand, was the full nelson. The most popular of the lot was Adrian. There were five of them, all from the north woods of Canada.

When the movie offers began to dwindle, Mike Muzurki returned to pro wrestling, which was his vocation when he came out of Manhattan College in New York. He wrestled on the east coast for a bout a year in the late 50s, then returned to Hollywood to continue his career as the most famous actor ever to be a pro wrestler. His pet hold was the figure four which he was able to apply because of his long thin legs.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

How's this for going out on a limb? The midnight Express have defeated Ron Garvin and Barry Windham for the US tag titles. The match takes place tomorrow night on WTBS.

It should be a pretty good match as it was set up a couple of weeks ago on the TBS show. Ron Garvin was being interviewed and Jim Cornette interrupted. Ron wrapped his towel around Cornette's neck and started to choke when the Midnight Express came in for the save. Now instead of Ron getting beat to a pulp as one might expect, he managed to block on of the Express from smashing the podium over his head. Barry came out then to even the odds and one of the wildest studio brawls ensued. Everything got smashed including the poster of the old World Championship Wrestling logo. The Express ended up running off.

Lex Luger just about killed a TV jobber and himself on the same show. He messed up a power slam, then went to put the guy in his bearhug, lost his balance, and stumbled into the ropes with the guy. Luger better learn how to do his finishing move before somebody gets hurt real bad.

The Midnight Express earned their shot at the US Tag belts by virtue of their win over the Rock and Roll Express on this last weekend's TBS show. Stan Lane is looking great and will soon make us all forget about old what's his name. The match ended with a much anticipate referee bump. The R&R's had double drop kicked Eaton into the ref, knocking them both out of the ring. They then doubled on Lane and Morton had him pinned for about a ten count. Another ref appeared on the scene and made the three count, but Lane got his foot on the ropes at the two count. The second ref didn't see this, but the first did, so the match was ordered restarted. It went a whole three seconds more before the R&R were DQ's for flipping Lane over the top rope.

Barry is too busy feuding with anyone who has a belt to spend his time working in a tag team. Besides, they haven't forgotten about a Jim/Ron Garvin tag team.

Dusty has issued a challenge to Tully Blanchard

and JJ Dillon. He came out with Magnum TA on the World Wide show with a paper bag containing "\$50,000" in common people money. He challenged JJ to put up the same amount and he and Tully would wrestle on TV for \$100,000. Tully refused. Look for this to set up things for the summer.

Also on the World Wide show, the New Breed were interviewing next to the ring, insulting Jimmy Valiant and Lasertron when the latter hit the ring and attacked the former. Sean Royal takes some of the best bumps on the circuit selling for Valiant's flaky-looking punches. I guess this is another feud we're going to be stuck with, although for some reason, even though it sounds bad with Valiant in there, the fans at the arenas get behind Jimmy like you wouldn't believe. I don't know why.

The future of WTBS may be in danger. According to a story in TV Guide (may 2-8 News Update section), Ted Turner has sold one third of the station, and apparently the new investors want to make WTBS just a local Atlanta station again, creating a new cable channel. There are some other FCC rules being changed that may ban "super-stations" as well. For further updates, read your TV Guide.

Last issue I said that Chris Champion did a great Road Warrior Hawk impression. Turns out that he's even more talented than we originally gave him credit for. In the past couple of weeks he's imitated Dusty Rhodes (even better than Bill Apter) and the little martian guy who tries to catch Bugs Bunny all the time. All this and wrestling talent too!

UWF wrestlers will begin appearing on Crockett Cards across the country in absence of their own live shows (more details in UWF section). For the time being the two promotions will continue with separate TV shows in the same market.

If you're waiting to see me comment on the Windham Blanchard match of last Sunday, sorry to disappoint you. I didn't see it. Seems I can't get it in my head that when TBS says something is going to be on at 5pm, that means 4pm for me. This may qualify me as leading candidate for the dipstick of the month award.

In all the above references to the New Breed, reverse the names as I have them. I goofed, and didn't want to go back and retype the whole page.

WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

Pardon me while I indulge myself for just this issue. I had the opportunity recently to meet Randy Macho Man Savage and his wife Elizabeth, and since this section of the bulletin deals with wrestler's personalities outside of the ring, I thought this would be appropriate.

Let me begin by saying that Randy had no idea who I was. I did not introduce myself or mention Wrestling Forum.

Randy made himself available for an hour before the matches began in the lobby of the Peoria Civic Centre. We got there towards the end of his appearance, and at first, I just stood back and watched how he greeted others. One thing I noted was that despite the fact he was willing to shake hands with anyone who offered, he did not sign autographs. I made my way forward, but before I could get there, some little brat paraded in front of him with a sign that said, "Macho Man sucks" and "Dragon Rules". I waited on purpose to see his reaction. He smiled. His only comment was, "just watch." He said it in his normal voice (yes he does have a normal voice that is easily understood).

So I approached. Being the brave person I am, I used my three year old daughter Kelly as a shield. When Randy saw her, he broke into a big smile. There were long tables separating him from the fans, so I put Kelly on those. A security person objected, but Randy said, "She's not hurtin' anything. Let her be." he then asked her name and she told him (Oh God, I thought. What if he recognizes Gallagher! Fortunately she only says her last name good enough for someone who already knows what it is to understand).

I asked if I could get a picture of him, Elizabeth and Kelly together. He said, "Sure." Then to Liz he said, "Come on. It'll give us good practice."

My eyes lit up and I said, "You mean you two are..."

"NO, NO, NO, NO, NO," was his immediate response. So much for a scoop.

I got the picture, and thanked him. He was super, and said "no problem." He even took a few minutes

play with Kelly and talk to her (I'm surprised she didn't ask him to do a job for her).

After the picture, I leaned a little closer and said, "Can I ask you a couple of questions, Randy?" He had no idea what was coming, but he again agreed.

First question: "Are they turning you babyface?" I got a dirty look. I saw Liz smile out of the corner of my eye. In a VERY low voice, he said, "No."

Second question: "Are you glad you're done working with Jim (Jim Myers - aka - George Steele)?" This one got a little more response. I saw his eyes shifting back and forth through his sunglasses. Almost like he was making sure that Vince or somebody wasn't around he said, again very quietly, "Yeah."

I shook his hand, thanked him again, and left. As I was leaving, he leaned over and whispered something to Liz. She shrugged her shoulders at what ever he said.

I also got to see Demolition on their way in to the arena. I yelled at them to get their attention. When I yelled Eadie's name, he looked like he stuttered when he walked, but kept going. When I yelled at Barry Darsow, he didn't respond to either Barry or Darsow, but when I yelled, "Hey Kruschev!" he stopped, pointed a finger at me and said, "Don't you ever call me that again!" and quickly left.

I guess the best advice I could give anyone who is approaching a wrestler either to meet them or to get an autograph, is to approach them with a great deal of respect. It seems the more respect you're willing to show, the more they show in return.

When you become a smart-ass with a wrestler, however, be prepared to get some heat in return. Every profession has its idiots, and wrestling is no different. Some babyfaces will be very nasty to approaching fans, but most realize without the fans, their paycheck wouldn't be possible.

If you have any stories about wrestlers you have met that would be appropriate for Wrestlers Are People Too, send them along. Or do a capsule bio like we did last issue and in issues past. If you want your name withheld for your protection, just say so.

MEMPHIS

Jerry Lawler is not the only one running around Memphis with less hair than the last time we checked...got a report here that Downtown Bruno is running around with a head that's as slick as a peeled onion.

Let's take a look at the Lawler situation first. He was scheduled to go against Austin Idol in a cage on 4-27. Special stipulations were as such: Idol loses and he refunds everyone's admission price. Lawler loses and he loses his hair. They put up the cage in a strange way. Instead of putting it up so that it fit tight next to the ring, they allowed a space so that they could walk around the thing on the arena floor. Late in the bout, Idol piledrove ref Jerry Calhoun then pulled something out of his tights and KO'd Lawler. Idol went to revive the ref as Lawler had a quick recovery. Lawler piledrove Idol and covered him, but the ref was still down. Tommy Rich then crawled out from under the ring (I understand he'd been hiding there since 3pm) and jumped Lawler. They ended up posting him then Idol covered him for the three count. A near riot ensued with people climbing over the cage to get to Idol and Rich. They had a hard time leaving the ring area. Lawler had his own personal stylist do the hair cut and he wound up with just a crew cut. A special thanks to Scott Bowden who supplied this eyewitness report for us.

So what about Bruno? We ain't sure. Jeff Archey said that on Saturday morning, Bruno had hair (Nashville however shows Memphis a week late) but none that night in Nashville. I'll have details next time, I hope.

Meanwhile, Memphis is proving to have the hottest wrestling right now as Bill Dundee has returned as a babyface. It's been rumored that he is just making a stop over on his way to Continental, but I also know that he purchased a house just a few miles north of Nashville. I guess we'll have to wait and see if it's permanent.

Titles are changing all over the place here. The Mercenaries, a new and very sorry looking tag team came in with the International tag belts that they had "won" somewhere. They lost those titles to Steve Keirn and Mark Starr on the 4-27 show where Lawler lost his hair. Keirn and Starr have since dropped the belts to Diamond and Tanaka. This happened when Steve Keirn failed to show up and Starr defended against Diamond and Tanaka by himself. Billy Travis came out and helped when they started beating Starr up pretty bad.

Another title change saw Chick Donovan beat Mule Train Jones for the International title. And still another, Jeff Jarrett beat Moondog Spot (don't ask) for the all but forgotten about Mid America title.

Bruno has been working a few matches on the circuit with Tojo in a battle of the heels managers. Bruno wants to be known as Downtown Bruno the Dragon. Must be funny. Even Goliath (who accompanied Bruno to the ring in Nashville) was falling on the arena floor almost in tears.

We reported an issue or so ago that Tojo may turn babyface soon. The reason we assume this is because history tends to repeat itself, especially here in Memphis. About five years ago, Tojo managed a Japanese tag team featuring Mr. Onito and Masa Fuji. Jimmy Hart came out one day and announced that he had stolen them away from Tojo. Well, the Jarretts have open a wrestling school in Memphis and Tojo is well known for his training techniques. With him getting on in years (Tojo was getting on in years when Noah set sail on the Ark), they may work this same angle with either Bruno or Paul Dangerly (who I've been getting some very favorable reports on). We'll see if history does repeat itself.

Jack Hart is in being called "the Stretcher". Don't know why, cos it has nothing to do with anyone being carted out on one.

Speaking of Hart, he and Chick Donovan beat up on announcer Randy Hale recently prompting Jarrett, Travis and Dundee to make the save. Nothing like solidifying Dundee as a face.

PEE-WHEW IN PEORIA

Originally, I had not planned on attending the WWF card in Peoria on 5-4-87. No job, no money, and a lousy line up had convinced me to stay home. But then I read the newspaper ad for the show. Along with the God-awful lineup, they also announced that Randy Savage and Elizabeth would be in the lobby an hour before the show meeting fans. My mind clicked into action. I called the radio station that I occasionally do reports for and asked if they had been given any complimentary tickets. They had (They are supposed to give them away on air, but they have a hard time getting rid of wrestling tickets for some reason). We went. We did in fact meet Randy and Elizabeth (see Wrestlers Are People Too), and here's the results of the sorry card that followed.

We missed the first match (we left after meeting Randy to get supper) so I have no idea what happened. The first match we saw had Lanny Poffo pinning JimmyJackJesseBarr Funk in a particularly boring match. JJ seemed more intent on trying to stir up the crowd (which is understandable for later matches), but he failed. End move was nice. Rating of C- mainly because of the finishing maneuver (I can't even begin to describe it). RON BASS pinned Pedro Morales after a very weak clothesline. Neither worked at all. Pedro spent most of his time stomping around the ring, clapping his hands. Bass spent a lot of time running. Rated an F because neither wanted to be there.

In the best match of the night, the Rogeau Brothers defeated Greg Valentine and Dino Bravo. They did some nice high spots with Greg, and one incident that was well done with Dino. The Rogeaus were on either side of Dino and both drop kicked him, sandwiching him in between. End came when all four were brawling. Valentine got one of the Rogeaus into a small package. Ref was trying to get Bravo out of the ring when the other Rogeau reversed the small package, and the ref made the count. Rating of B- which included a poor post match brawl.

Koko B Ware pinned Danny Davis in what should have been a good match but wasn't. The first seven minutes saw Davis beating the snot out of Koko and Koko trying to earn the Salesman of the Year award. Koko came back for two minutes and pinned Davis while Davis had a foot on the ropes. No high spots. Rated a D+ for Koko selling so well.

Jim Duggan pinned the Iron Sheik with a flying clothesline. Typical Duggan match. Typical Sheik doing-a-job-for-an-American match. Typical C- rating.

Demolition drew little heat and pinned the Killer Bees. Blair had Darsow in a rolling reverse. Eadie came in and gave him a clothes line (blind ref), then covered him for the pin after pushing Darsow out of the ring. Rating...C. One thing I don't understand...why Demolition does so much selling if Vince is trying to get them over as a Road Warrior type team. They sold their butts off which is the reason for the high rating.

In the main event, Ricky Steamboat beat Randy Savage in a cage match. Most of the match (which went a whole seven minutes) saw the two blocking each other's attempts to throw one another into the cage. The did one nice spot with Steamer out of the cage, Randy caught him on the way down by the hair. Ricky was hanging onto the top of the cage with Randy's arms hiding Rick's hands. Steamboat was letting his feet dangle, so it looked like Savage was holding him there by the hair. Both bladed, Steamboat first and heavy. When Randy bladed himself, he was in the process of being whipped across the ring. He juiced very little. The end came quite unexpectedly as they were basically just pounding on each other in the center of the ring, and Steamboat broke loose, and crawled to the door with Savage just a couple of feet behind him. No drama. Rating of a D+ which surprised me. It was just that neither put out.

Attendance was around 3500.

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS

Dear Jon;

I don't know if you get many letters from female wrestling fans on the subject of Ric Flair, but I'd like to make a few comments about his interviews of late.

I have a tremendous amount of respect for Flair as a wrestler, and I think he's the best in the United States. This "Space Mountain" jam has gotten entirely out of hand and I for one think it's being carried too far. People talk about sexism in wrestling, but I think Flair is being rather degrading to a lot of women. While he invites all of us between 18-26 to meet him at the local Holiday Inn to experience the thrill of a lifetime, and then you see him on Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous type shows with his wife and infant daughter, happily married, doting father, etc. it makes you wonder why he goes through with all that.

-BETH SACKETT-
Ferndale, MI

Dear Jon;

Just a few random thoughts: I got my first (and probably last) look at GLOW. I just can't believe it! They threw punches and then you hear a sound effect punch!!! I don't have to tell you how lousy it is. The girls look great though, and that might bring me back to it occasionally.

Rhetorical question of the week...Can you explain why the NWA holds scaffold matches, cage matches, first blood matches, lumberjack matches, etc....yet officially "bans" the piledriver?

Quote of the week has to go to Jim Cornette. On NWA pro Wrestling he said, "And Mama said that if my Midnight express didn't win those US Tag Team Belts by the end of May, she was gonna call me home."

Second place quote of the week: Slick's singing of the Russian National Anthem.

-MIKE VIOLA-
Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Wrestling Forum;

Last issue you posed an interesting question. You asked what we thought of Ric Flair taking so many DQ finishes and having to always retain his title controversially as compared to all of Hogan's clear cut victories.

I can't see how Dusty, Crockett, or whoever is in charge out there can continue to let Flair win like this. If they want to seriously compete with the WWF in the marks' eyes (and they sure don't look angles to please just us "intelligent fans") they need a champion who looks like he could beat Hogan. Flair doesn't fit the part. Most marks wouldn't give Flair a fighting chance in the ring against Hogan, especially after Hogan's impressive WMIII win. Most marks that would say "Flair" when asked who would win would also add that he would win by cheating or he would get himself DQ'd intentionally.

Before Crockett is going to be taken seriously by the fans who count, he's going to have to give the belt to a Luger or a Road Warrior type who looks like they could stand up to Hogan. Remember, endurance has nothing to do with this...the average mark thinks Hogan's matches go twenty to thirty minutes each. And we all know that if he went that long, his tan would fall off.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

HULKAMANIA; HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

Feature by Jeff Siegel

I teach you the Superman.

Man is something which shall be surpassed.

-Nietzsche, 1883

As of late, there's been quite a bit of conjecture over the possibility of Hulk Hogan's reign was WWF heavyweight champion coming to an abrupt end - or at least being interrupted for a short time. Speculation, as we're about to review, has taken many forms...and has continued to build since around the time that Paul Orndorff took his most recent turn to the dark side.

But don't get your hopes up. Nothing in the wacky world of professional wrestling could be farther from the realm of reality. You'd be better off holding your breath until Jerry Blackwell wrests the light heavyweight championship from Buck Zumhofe and Lasertron in the same calendar week. And as far as a brief intermission in Hogan's tenure is concerned, fact is that Terry Gene just isn't Ric Flair (in more ways than meet the eye).

So why all the to-do? Well, it started about the time of the Orndorff turn. Some "smart" fans hypothesized that the Jultster would drop the strap to Mr. Wonderful on an upcoming Saturday Night's Main Event - setting up a return bout at Wrestlemania III where Hogan would reclaim what was rightfully his. In the meantime, the story went, he would tend to some minor knee surgery that he'd been putting off.

Not the case as others pointed out, WMIII was too far off at the time - and arthroscopic surgery, allowing for a much shorter recuperation period, might do the trick.

For some reason, speculation about a WWF title change continued to be bantered about. Suddenly, to feul the fire anew, Vince Junior decided to turn Andre the Giant for WMIII...rekindling the debate as to whether or not Hogan might be stepping down as champ for a period of time. Hogan's clean victory over the washed-up giant took care of that idea.

To echo the sentiments of several others who have commented on this situation in the weeks gone by (and you can take this one to the bank), Hulk Hogan will not "hand over" - not "drop", but "hand over"- his prized possession when, and only when, he's good and ready to. And the chances are darn good that it's going to be a nice long time.

"A nice long time, but what's the reason to this rhyme?" For starters, and probably more importantly than any other reason, Mr. Hogan is, quite simply, Vince McMahon Jr and his WWF's meal ticket. He is one of the most recognizable, well known celebrities in the United States today. And that's on an overall basis, not merely restricted to his prominence within the world of wrestling. As far as pro wrestling goes, only Gorgeous George may have come close to the notoriety that Hogan has achieved with the general public.

But I needed to do some field research to substantiate this conclusion. A simple experiment was in order. So I polled fifteen friends, acquaintances, and business associates - some men, some women, some young some old, but all admittedly non-wrestling fans. I showed them three names on a piece of paper in no specific order. The names were Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, and the Road Warriors. Then, I asked them simply to tell me if they had heard of, or knew who each of these people were. The results were interesting to say the least.

FOURTEEN of the fifteen knew who Hogan was; most said that they'd either seen his picture in some type of print publication or on TV at one time or another. EIGHT people though the Road Warriors had

something to do with the Mel Gibson movie of the same name; no one had any idea that they were pro wrestlers. Sadly, not a one had any idea what Ric Flair was all about.

That, in a nutshell, says it all. Junior is in the business to make money. He certainly is not looking to advance the state of athletics. To make big bucks, he's got to reach more and more of the borderline professional wrestling fans. Right now, Hulk Hogan does that better than anyone in the game. In fact, he does it better than anyone who has ever stepped into the ring before him.

What surprises me is how many fans there are who, for reasons I can't quite understand, continue to anticipate a title change because Hogan has held the belt for all of three "long" years. Memories can't be that short, can they? A quick look at the history book shows that Messrs. Sammartino and Backlund held the top spot in the WWF for significantly longer periods. granted, the need for national appeal wasn't there back in the sixties and seventies, but both men had far less charisma and appealed to far more limited audiences nevertheless.

No, I'm afraid that Hulkamania is with us for as long as Terry Gene Bollea continues to make enough money to maintain his own personal interest in the whole charade. The ball's in his court, and despite what Vince like to think, he needs Hogan a heck of alot more than the blond bomber need him. Translated, that means Junior will put up with whatever outrageous demands and/or behavior the Hulkster may foist upon him in the months and years to come. Definitely a case of the tail wagging the dog here, folks.

Of course, that's not to say that Vince has any desire whatsoever to ask the big guy to step down (why should he?). Again, he's a businessman - one who realizes that the amount of \$\$\$ in merchandising and promotion tied to the champ is way too high to even remotely justify running any kind of angle around a title change. What's more, McMahon knows enough about wrestling after this many years in the biz (did I say that?) to foresee the emotional and psychological damage that would be wreaked upon the marks should Hogan lose the strap. You don't tug on Superman's cape - and you certainly don't risk the potentially permanent loss of part of your target audience.

Finally, as far as a "quickie" title change is concerned (a la Flair-Dusty), you can forget that, too. The only thing bigger than Hogan's biceps is his ego (all the more reason to admire Flair, though that's not the issue here). Even if Vince were to come up with some kind of ludicrous rationalization for a quick change of the title (WM IV???), you can bet your bottom dollar that Hogan would nix it in a minute. As to who would win that debate, please refer to the aforementioned "Leverage, Hogan vs McMahon".

Four years? Five years?? Six years or more??? If Hulk Hogan's reign as the WWF heavyweight champ is any shorter, it'll only be because Hogan himself decides to cut it short. In the meantime, his far reaching appeal shows absolutely no signs of weakening; its unprecedented intensity remains strong as ever. Which means that if you're interested in specifically how long the Hulkamania party will last, you'll have to ask the champ. After all, it's up to him.

THE THIRD FALL

To appreciate how much Steve has improved in the ring, you have to see some of his early matches. There is no nice way to say it. When he first started out, he stunk.

Part of the reason was the way he was pushed from the beginning. With little or no formal training in the sport of wrestling, Steve was taken and pushed as a strongman type. He was put directly into the role of a heel, and that in itself was a big mistake.

See, heels are supposed to do a lot of beating up, but they are expected to get beat up even more. Because of that, they are expected to take some nasty bumps and be very proficient at selling. That way the fans feel their heroes (who are doing the beating) are getting the revenge they're seeking, thus the fan is getting his money's worth. Problems arise when the heel doesn't know how to take bumps or sell, and unfortunately for Steve, he didn't know how to do either. What made the transition for Steve is still somewhat of a mystery. Perhaps it was going to work for Cowboy Bill Watts who insisted on a superior workrate from his workers. Perhaps he had a genuine interest in the sport and wanted to become known as one of the better workers. Maybe it was the workers around him who got tired of him messing up high spots. Whatever the case, Doc straightened his act out and today is one of the finest wrestlers the UWF has to offer.

Now you may think you know the outcome of the third fall, but don't get ahead of yourself.

See, Steve, or Doc, or what ever you want to call him, didn't have to wrestle for a living. He had been to college and learned a trade that could have probably supported him very comfortably for the rest of his life. But he had the dedication that few "muscle-heads" have today. He had the drive to become the best he could be.

See, Steve really was a doctor. Doctor Steve Borden who left a chiropractic practice to enter the world of professional wrestling.

You know him better as "Every man's nightmare" Sting. Only now, you know the outcome of the third fall.

FLORIDA REPORT
By Jeff Bowdren

The biggest news from the state of Florida is that apparently Dusty is going to try and turn Ed Gantner into sort of a Dusty Jr. Last week on television, they did the tapings from the Spartan Sports Centre in Tampa. Two weeks before, Gantner had been beat up by Humperdink and Sam Anioia in an angle that came off looking pretty bad. First of all, Anioia missed two of the four kicks that he directed towards Gantner's throat. Second of all, it was painfully obvious to even the biggest mark that Gantner was chewing on a capsule. The guy looked like he was working on a piece of beef jerky! However, when trouble abounds, leave it to big Dusty to save the day. During the taping at the Spartan, there was a big tag match between Dusty/Mike Rotunda and Kevin Sullivan/Tejio Khan (who is thankfully losing his push...he has to be one of the worst in the business). After about ten minutes of a match that was much better than it had a right to be, Dusty got the pin on Khan. You had to know something was amiss when Dusty sits up and starts going to town with the blade on himself AFTER he got the pin. Naturally, Sullivan, Humperdink, and Khan begin massacring Dusty after they threw Rotunda over the top rope (Mike had juiced heavily during the match). As Dusty was hitting a gusher (and I mean gusher) Gantner came running into make the save, debuting his new hold, "the Bionic Bull Buster" which is the Oklahoma stampede done very poorly. Anyway, after the bedlam has calmed down, Gantner is standing in the ring and is suddenly attacked by Dusty. "Dusty doesn't understand!!" Gordon screams into the mike. "Ed Gantner's sense of fair play overwhelmed him!" So after about a three minute stare down, Dusty shakes Gantner's hand. "This is an historic moment!" proclaims Gordon.

Gordon also had a good quote as Dusty was looking to the crowd before shaking Gantner's hand: "Dusty is looking to the only people in the world he trusts (dramatic pause)...the fans!" It was hysterical. The best thing about the angle and the way it was shot, was that Dusty and Gordon were at their absolute zenith. Dusty just worked the crowd tremendously and Gordon is at his best when he calls a match with Dusty in it.

Other notes...As you may have guessed, Dory Funk Jr. is in, managed by Oliver Humperdink. That of course, may destroy any hope of him getting any heat...Rumors of lots of grumblings around here. Dundee and the MOD Squad appear to be headed to Continental (Dundee will stop over in Memphis) and Shaska Whatley may not be far behind...Jerry Grey was supposed to get a push after his return from Japan, but after the buy-out, that apparently has been forgotten...There's been a significant increase in juice on TV lately...During the Rhodes/Rotundo-Sullivan/Khan match on television, Gordon stated that Dusty was "a four letter man in high school and college" (F-O-O-D and J-E-R-K come to mind immediately)...During that same match, Rotunda's looked the best since his return.

Sullivan had another good crop of quotes, stating that "I wish I could go back in time and shoot the doctor that delivered Dusty Rhodes", and after Rotunda questioned where in the past Kevin lost his marbles, Kevin said, "When I was a kid, I used to go to the junkyard and hunt rats with a big stick. The rats would see me coming and say 'Lookout, here he comes' and they'd run away. But I'd find 'em under the cars and then I'd take the big stick and I'd jab 'em. Then I'd jab 'em again." The whole thing went on like that for a couple of minutes, and though it sounds a little sick, it was actually pretty funny.

See ya next time...

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Despite the Peoria show, things are really heating up here in the WWF as it looks like they are wasting no time continuing old angles and building the newer ones. Obviously they either have big things planned for the summer months, or they were really itching to get back to work after the four week layoff following Wrestlemania.

I guess we should start off with a report on Saturday Night's Main Event that aired May 2 on NBC. I was a bit surprised that Hogan didn't appear on the card (at least the televised version). It started off with Kamala pinning Jake Roberts. Kim Shee hit Jake while Fuji distracted the ref. Kim Shee took off the mask revealing himself to be the Honky Tonk Man (they ran this same skit in Philadelphia several months ago when Kamala was wrestling Hogan... Kim Shee turned out to be Paul Orndorff). Good shock value. Not a bad match, I gave it a B-. Next up was the "final" match between Savage and Steele done lumberjack style. I enjoyed it and it looked like Savage was working his butt off and George was at least trying. End came with Danny Davis nailing George from behind while the ref was distracted. Savage got the pin. This got a B- in my book, but the ensuing battle royal (all the lumberjacks piling in the ring) was even better. Jake came back to the ring (ribs taped and all) with the snake and cleared the ring. Kim Shee (the real one - Steve Lombardi) got the rath of Jake with the snake being draped over him. Excellent action so far. Next up was the Bulldogs taking two straight falls from the Hart Foundation. The first came on a DQ so the titles didn't change hands. Dynamite Kid is crazy. He did one of those Japanese style snap suplexes that scared me to death. The match was real good when Bret and Davey Boy were in, but Bret and Jim seemed to take it super easy on DK. It got a B. Steamboat won (?) his match with Hercules via DQ. This I didn't understand. Hercules put Steamer in a full nelson, and Savage, who had been "watching" the match on a TV monitor in the dressing room ran out and interfered. This did not cause a DQ, however, rather a commercial break. Herc was DQ'd for hitting Steamboat with the chain he carries to the ring. Savage had stayed at ringside to watch the match, and after it was over, he went in to check on Ricky. After making sure he was okay, he climbed to the top ropes and dived off with the elbow smash. Match and antics got a B+ combination grade. The final match saw the Can Am Connection going against Sheik and Volkoff with Jim Duggan at ringside. He cleared the ring once when Nik tried to sing the Russian Anthem and again at the end. Sorry, folks, but I just don't like this Duggan act. Anyway the Can Am won by pinfall and this match only earned a C-.

This show was one of the best they've done, work rate wise. The last two or three have impressed me. In fact, with Crockett taking over the UWF shows, Saturday Night's Main Event may have a very good chance of winning our best TV show of the Year category in the year end awards.

Other stuff going on... Adrian Adonis has been fired. This time it looks like for good. Just as well. He was on the last Superstars show and he looked terrible. If this man is less than 340 pounds, then I'm Rufus R Jones' brother! This guy should have "Goodyear" tattooed on his sides! His butch haircut makes him look a bit like Outback Jack, which could be a compliment, depending on how you look at it. Anyway, he's gone as is Blackjack Mulligan. He apparently just walked out as he has done so many times to so many promotions.

As if Brutus Beefcake isn't a colorful enough name already, he's added "The Barber" between the two as a new nickname. I wonder if they're going to trademark that part. Anyhow, he's wearing a barber's smock to the ring now to complete the image. In a match shown on the Superstars (and all the other programs as well) he easily beat his former manager Johnny V with a sleeper, then gave Johnny a New Breed style haircut. At least these clippers he used were charged and worked well. From what I hear, John will keep the new hairstyle.

As a fill in on several cards around the country, Hogan will be defending his belt against the challenge of Honky Tonk man. The reason I call it a fill in is because there is no feud set up, and I doubt if anyone for a moment

would believe Hogan would be in danger of losing his title. Personally, I'd be surprised if the matches go more than 4-5 minutes.

At Wrestlemania III, Hogan opened the match with Andre with an attempted slam. Andre landed on top and the ref counted two. Or at least that's the way I remember it and reported it. But on the replay they've been showing, referee Joey Morella's hand does come down for a third time. At natural speed, it looks like Andre might have pinned Hogan. At stop-frame speed, Hogan does kick out just before Joey's hand disappears on the other side of the mound of humanity piled in the middle of the ring.

I think here, they may be making the best out of a possible screw up. I don't think that the count was intended to be that close. The reason I say this is because when Andre popped up on his knees after being thrown off, he was holding up two fingers as if to say, "Hey! That was only two! It's not supposed to end like this!" The footage of the match would have been a lot more effective if Andre hadn't have done that. I have yet to see the whole thing along with Monsoon's commentary anywhere but the closed circuit location where I attended. When I get a chance to see the whole tape, I'll be able to better judge what happened.

If you have watched any WWF programs in the past two weeks, you've seen the Heenan-Patera debate. It ended with Heenan attacking Patera with his belt (boy was THAT dumb) and Patera wrapping the belt around Heenan's neck before whipping him across the ring, only to stop him short by holding on to the belt. Heenan took a tremendous bump, and now is wearing a neck brace to the ring. This is setting up a feud between Heenan's strongman Hercules and Patera. Where does this leave Boring Jack Haynes? Good question. I'll bet he's asking the same one.

Newcomer to the area is Killer Khan. He's been here before, but prior to the days of expansion. He's been working in Japan for most of the time he's been gone. He'll be managed by Mr. Fuji, and it'll probably be a while before we see what his role will be. He's best remembered for breaking Andre's leg.

UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

Our worst fears concerning the buyout have been confirmed. I received a report on the last Power-Pro taping and out of the 19 matches held, 17 were squash matches. The two that weren't were dark matches. It would appear from first impressions that Dusty has taken a quality TV show and turned it into the type of production that you can catch on the other Crockett shows (lousy matches and lots of interviews).

Meanwhile the UWF is taking some time off from doing live shows...sort of. From what I understand, They are not going to run any live shows until they have the angles they are preparing done on TV and working smoothly through that medium. However, UWF wrestlers will be appearing on Crockett tour shows. I understand that the Crockett show in Chicago on the 24th of this month is basically a UWF show with appearances by Flair and the Road Warriors (main events to be Flair/Tully/Lex vs Warriors/Dusty in a cage and Rude/Bull vs R&R).

Otherwise how are things...I believe that I have now seen the last tape done B.C. (Before Crockett), so I'll try to bring you up to date on what's going happened prior to the take over.

I reported last issue that the tag titles had changed hands in Atlanta, and now I've seen a clip of the match. Adams was being pinned by Sting while Taylor and Steiner were battling on the ring apron. Adams managed to get his foot on the ropes, but Adams went by and accidentally kicked it off.

After the match, Chris was saying he didn't know what had happened, and Terry kept telling him not to worry because he (Taylor) didn't hold it against him (Chris).

In a subsequent taping, Taylor and Adams were again being interviewed, again with Terry making a big deal out of not making a big deal (understand?) of Chris getting pinned. Finally, Terry just said, "Been nice workin' with ya, see ya around," and walked off the set. I understand that in the A.D. (After Dusty stuck his big nose in) tapes, Terry has turned full fledged heel.

Meanwhile, they also showed the match where Big Bubba Rogers took the UWF title from One Man Gang.

Actually the match was neither as bad as what it sounded or as what I had heard about it. Still it wasn't a good match...I had just expected the absolute worst.

The end of the match came with OMG going to the middle rope to give Bubba the 747. Just as he has done with both DiBiase and Williams, he jumped off and missed. Bubba got up from there, climbed to the top rope and jumped off on Gang. Gang didn't move. Bubba got the three count and the belt. The crowd at the taping was heavily cheering for Bubba by the match end. Skandor Akbar came out halfway through just to watch. After the match he told the TV audience that OMG had gotten too old and soft. That's why he had fired him (Gang has already showed up for WWF TV tapings 5-12 in LA). Bubba would now be part of Devastation Inc.

Some notes concerning life after Crockett... Steve Williams has been telling people he's staying because this will allow him to continue to work Japan. I would bet that it's safe to make the same assumption about Ted too.

Sam Houston has definitely walked out. He's been doing some arena shows already for the WWF and he got over well at the taping of the WWF Superstars show in LA on May 12.

Joel Watts has been rumored to be headed to the WWF and he's also been reported as staying on here. The latest word I have is that he's staying but his position is such that he could change employers anytime as well.

They are now calling the UWF title the Universal World title or the UWF World title. I've heard it referred to both ways.

Apparently they will resume the live arena shows in the regular territory in late June.

Savannah Jack has been run out of the area, or at least that's what Iceman Parsons is telling everyone. I understand also that they don't like each other in real life either, and that "Oreo cookie" and "Boy" are just a few of the names Iceman uses when addressing Jack for real.

WORLD CLASS
by Jeff Siegel

The tragedy of Mike Von Erich's death continues to hover over this promotion like another in the long line of dark clouds that have rained on Fritz's parade over the past couple of years. Whispered innuendoes continue to abound --- most speculating about who or what may have been responsible for driving Mike to take his own life. Some have credence; others don't. For the moment though, it's time to place this story on the back burner ---pending the unlikely event of any new developments --- and move on to what else is happening down Texas way.

And a pretty picture it isn't. Unfortunately, the next Von Erich related "death" may be the World Class promotion itself. It's one disaster right after another, and it can't be much fun for anyone involved. Speaking as one who's finding it less and less enjoyable to write about World Class (did I say that, Jon?), I can only imagine how dismal it's getting for the guys who have to "work" down there.

Anyway, the latest disaster was the May 3rd David and Mike Von Erich Memorial Parade of Champions at Texas Stadium. As expected, most of the matches were contenders for "Worst Match of the Year" honors ...from the six women mud battle royal travesty to Kevin and Nord's humorous attempt at a "championship" bout. Add to that a gate that was estimated in the four to six thousand range, and you've got a financial disaster as well.

The show's only saving grace included: A couple of Bruiser Brody matches --- one under the hood as Red River Jack teaming with the "other" Bruiser's favorite ex-son-in-law Spike Huber, to beat Abdullah the Butcher and Eli the Eliminator --- and the other against Jeep Swenson in a five minute bloodbath that saw Brody score the clean pinfall (hats off to Brody for making this musclehead look good!).... and the scaffold match that pitted the Fantastics and Steve Simpson against the Rock and Roll RPM's and Eric Embry. The Fantastics won the match AND the WCCW tag belts at the same time (figure that one out!?!?) when Embry "intercepted" a handful of powder that RITM Davis intended for Fulton, and Embry was subsequently knocked off the scaffold. All the reports I got rated this one as a three to four star effort --- and a better scaffold match than the Road Warriors-Midnight Express Starrcade affair.

On a business note, and as first reported in Dave Meltzer's Wrestling Observer, Dallas Cowboys owner Bum Bright has bought into the World Class promotion to some degree. I can only think that the guy is looking for a tax write off. You don't accrue as much money as Bright has by investing in situations that are as obviously high risk (that's a compliment!) as World Class is. And while Fritz may be able to get others to believe that it's the beginning of "a new era", I wouldn't bet on it. For one thing, Bright hasn't committed the big bucks yet. For another, if Bright was serious about getting in to the wrestling racket, I kinda doubt that Fritzville is where he'd head to start throwing those big bucks around. We'll see.

*****INDEPENDENT NEWS*****
by Jeff Siegel

With World Class offering little if anything else of interest this time around, here's a chance to bring you up to date on an interesting new venture that has started up in the Southeast. It's called the "Global Wrestling Alliance" --- and the really interesting thing here is that it's the first wrestling promotion EVER TO BE SYNDICATED AS PART OF A PUBLIC STOCK OFFERING.

GWA went public on April 21st as a penny stock. (For those of you who follow these kind of things, it's got its pink sheet listing). The opening price was supposed to be ten cents a share (with seven million shares being sold to raise \$700,000), but the stock opened as a premium at 30 cents. From there it went to 40 cents, 70 cents, and as of the first week in May, was up to 80 cents. As I told Jon, and anyone else who knows anything about penny stocks will tell you, that's an awfully big jump (700%) for any stock, but especially for a penny stock in that shorter period of time.

Some background on the promotion. They are planning to promote specifically in the Caribbean, where they claim there is a tremendous market that is there for the taking. GWA's key players are: Patrick Schaefer (president), who supposedly has been involved in several wrestling promotions in the Southwest (does Olympia Promotions ring a bell anyone?); Dr. Micheal Brannon, a bonafide degreed psychiatrist who has wrestled professionally as Dr. Red Roberts and is about to publish a thesis dealing with the psychological make-up of professional wrestlers (that should be interesting!); and Buggy McGraw.

They'll do TV tapings in South Florida, with the first one scheduled to have been on May 10th near Fort Lauderdale. Where they'll pull their talent from is anybody's guess right now.

The most significant development here is that GWA, being a public company, will have to report to someone other than themselves. That's their stockholders, of course, and that's a novel arrangement for a wrestling promotion. Don't think they can hire Bill Apter to so their annual report, either; the Securities and Exchange Commission doesn't go for creative writing.

In fact, the company's "prospectus" ---the descriptive brochure on the stock offering --- has some interesting wrestling related tidbits in it. I'll have some of them, along with an update on this story, next month.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

4-17 KANSAS CITY (CS) - courtesy of William Wilson...Rip Rogers beat Stoney Burke...Bart Batten/Ric McCord over Karl Kovac/Super Destroyer... Rufus by DQ over Warlord...Pork Chop Cash/Ken Timbs by DQ over Midnight Rockers...Earthquake Ferris beat Bob Brown by DQ...NOTES: Attendance 400...Cash was handcuffed to Ferris during Rufus-Warlord match...used brass knuckles to Ferris then tripped Rufus to earn Warlord the DQ...Bob Geigel had to come to ring to reverse the original decision for the DQ win however...Janetty threw Cash over top rope for DQ in that match.

4-26 LUBBOCK, TX (UWF) - courtesy of Victor Martinez...Terminator drew Bob Bradley (F)...Cox pinned Mike Boyette (F)...Nickla beat Sunshine by COR (F)...Iceman pinned Savannah Jack (D)...Eddie Gilbert pinned Sam Houston (B+)...Buddy Roberts beat Bill Irwin (C+)...Taylor and Adams won by DQ over Sting & Steiner (A)...Chavo beat Gary Young (A)...Micheal Hayes and Angel went to a DDQ (B-)...Gordy pinned OMG (A)...NOTES: Attendance 2000...Chavo-Young was a death match...both had three falls each before Chavo won it...Hayes-Angel match degenerated into a brawl with Gordy and Gang interfering...that sort of blended into the Gordy-Gang match.

4-27 SALT LAKE CITY (AWA) - courtesy of Jack Thompson...TAG TEAM TOURNAMENT ...DJ Peterson/Paul Neu beat Super Ninja/Mr. Go via judges' decision (C+)...Sommers/Kelly beat Stevens/Dockwinkler by DQ (B+)...Rockers beat Brian Knobs/Jerry Saganovich (C-)...Snuka/Russ Francis beat Buddy Wolfe/Larry Z (F)...Zhukov/Ustinov beat Gagne/Hennig (F)...Zhukov/Ustinov beat Peterson/Neu (D+)...Snuka/Francis over Sommers/Kelly (A+)...Russian team beat Rockers to win tournament (F)...NOTES: Attendance 260... During last match it was announced that Snuka was bleeding too much to continue and that that meant this match was for the championship of the tournament...Titles did not change hands however...Francis came to ring after this match and asked to wrestle Russians with Peterson as his partner...he was told "no" and fans booed and jeered...Hennig was hit accidentally by Gagne and walked out of their match to leave Greg to get double teamed.

ALBUQUERQUE, NM (UWF) - courtesy of Jimmy Kellogg...Bradley beat Ninja 4 (awful)...Cox/Houston over George/Boyette (so-so)...Iceman beat Jack 28 ...Nickla beat Sunshine...Steiner/Sting beat Taylor/Houston...Doc pinned 187 OMG...Hayes/Gordy defeated Irwin/Angel...Chavo beat Young in a death match (not that good)...NOTES: Attendance 1433...this was the last UWF card in the country:

PITTSBURGH (WWF) - courtesy of John Lanigan...Outback Jack pinned Lombardi 5 (C)...Bass pinned Poffo (D-)...Honky Tonk beat Morales (C-)...Duggan 1 over Sheik (C)...Hogan won by DQ over Kamala (B)...Rougeau Brothers 187 beat Valentine/Bravo (C)...Koko pinned Danny Davis (D+)...Can Am beat Muraco/Orton (C+)...NOTES: Attendance 9557 Gate:\$83,563.50...Highlight of Bass-Poffo match was Lanny's poem about Jerry's Kids...scorer's table got quite a bit of a work out in several matches...Honky tonk was under Kim Shee's hood again for Hogan match...fans got out of hand a couple of times and Valentine and Bravo actually went over barricades and ripped off a couple of fans' shirts before police came.

5-2 NASHVILLE (CWA) - courtesy of Jeff Archey...Bubba beat Randy Bryant (C-)...Mark Starr over Goliath (C-)...Hunter/Bambi over Alan West/Emily Arthur (D)...Chick Donovan/Jack Hart/Paul Dangerly beat Soul Train/Rocky Johnson (F)...Diamond beat Travis (B)...Jarrett (A-)...NOTES : Attendance 1500...Bambi wore headgear...donovan does a strip tease on way to ring... Diamond went to the wrong dressing room after match only to be chased away by Jarrett...Starr has potential...Hunter is vastly underrated.

4-27 MEMPHIS (CWA) - courtesy of Scott Bowden...Bambi/Hunter defeated Alan West/Emily Arthur (C-)...steve Keirn/Mark Starr beat the Mercenaries (B)...Helo/Shima over Southern/DeMann (C-)...Donovan/Hart beat Jones/Rocky Johnson (C+)...Diamond beat Travis (A-)...Jarrett defeated Tanaka (C+)...Idol beat Lawler (B+)...NOTES: Attendance 9000...this is the card Lawler lost his hair...Bruno wearing a tux (!?!?)...gave the whole card a B-

5-3 DETROIT (WWF) - courtesy of Beth Sackett...Kiniski beat JimmyJackFunk...Jerry Allen got a win over Frenchy Martin...Bass clotheslined Pedro Morales...Killer Bess beat Demolition by DQ...Koko beat Davis...Duggan pinned Sheik...Valentine/Bravo over Rougeaus...Steamboat beat Savage...NOTES: Savage whipped Steamboat into turnbuckles...he flipped over them and out the door for the win.

5-3 CHARLESTON, WV (NWA) - courtesy of John Lanigan...New Breed beat Italian Stallion/Rocky king (C)...Valiant over Thunderfoot 1 (C-)...Lasertron pinned Nelson Royal (B)...Midnight Express over Armstrongs (C+)...Ole beat Arn by DQ (C+)...Lex/Tully went to a double countout with the Road Warriors (B+)...Ric Flair won by DQ over Jim Garvin (B+)...NOTES: Attendance 2000...lasertron and Thunderfoot wore masks in taxi when coming to the matches...Cornette blows kisses to hecklers at ringside rather than using abusive language...much more effective...Tully and Lex came to Arn's rescue and Warriors to Ole's...their match started from there...Jim Garvin DQ'd when he hit the ref by accident...he was swinging at both Flair and Lex who had come tot he ring.

5-8 SPRINGFIELD, MA (WWF) - courtesy of Dan Reilly...Sika beat S D Jones (F)...Volkoff beat Jerry Allen (Zzzzz)...Demolition over the Islanders (C)...Billy Jack pinned Honky Tonk (C+)...Koko beat Danny davis (B)...Roma/Powers downed Shadows (Randy Culley & ?)...Steamboat beat Savage (D)...NOTES: Attendance 2200...Savage and Steamboat didn't even try...over in 5 minutes...fans VERY disappointed...Demolition not nearly nasty enough...a very poor man's imitation of the Road Warriors...Jake Roberts a no show...claimed he was injured...Danny Davis works real hard but looks awfully small.

5-9 ST. LOUIS (WWF) - courtesy of Harry White...Outback Jack beat Frenchy Martin...Ron Bass defeated Brad Rheingans...Demolition over the Islanders...Duggan pinned Iron Sheik...Sam Houston beat Sika...Hart Foundation successfully defended titles against Bulldogs...Steamboat over Savage in a cage...NOTES: Steamer-Savage best of night, then Demolition...Duggan match very short...ending of cage match same as all over country...Ricky's pregnant wife was there...so was Baby Doll, but she stayed in the back.

5-5 LOUISVILLE, KY (CWA) - courtesy of Jim Fletcher...Starr drew Hart (C)...Hunter/Bambi beat West/Combs (C)...Diamond beat Travis (A++++)...Jarrett beat tanaka in a cage (A-)...Rockers beat Rich/Idol by DQ (B-)...Bockwinkel pinned Jarrett (C+)...NOTES: Attendance 1000...Diamond-Travis was best live match Jim has seen...closest thing to a rest hold was a pile driver...Tanaka carted out after match.

5-8 BALTIMORE (NWA) - courtesy of Fred Naarisma...Arstrongs drew NewBreed...Petrov pinned Baron...Arn beat Horner...Ron Garvin by DQ over Lex...Warriors by DQ over Rude/Bull...Rhodes vs Murdoch (no result was given because they destroyed the house mike beating up each other)...Nikita beat Ivan...Flair pinned Jim Garvin...NOTES: Att 8000...Arn & Horner messed up ending once and had to do it again...Nikita no longer playing Superman role...Match was a Russian Chain match...Ivan was two feet from winning at one point...Rude/Bull's time as champs appears to be limited.

Before I forget, we have some readers who need other readers' help...Ray Whebbe Jr. is completing his work on the PRO WRESTLING ENCYCLOPEDIA. He is looking for photos and bios on lesser known talents. He also needs lists of various title changes for all groups. The book will also include listings of all schools, bookers, promoters, etc. If you can help, have obscure group info and addresses, or want to be listed in the book, drop him a line at 1800 MECHANIC AVE, ST. PAUL, MN 55119... Dan McKenzie makes a similar request, but it may be a little easier: he just wants information on any of the independent promotions operating out of the midwest such as Bruiser's, or Midwest Championship Wrestling from Lima, Ohio. He is also interested in any info on California Championship Wrestling as broadcast on FNN (is it still going or are those reruns?). His address is 526 ORCHARD LANE, ARTHUR, IL 61911...and finally, my buddy Harry White, who thinks my Beta machine belongs in a museum somewhere is looking for someone who he can exchange some tapes with. He has about 20 Japanese tapes and he's looking to trade those for other Japanese tapes. You can get hold of Harry by writing him at 12385 Shoreridge, Maryland Heights, MO 63043.

Last issue's trivia question was "What collegiate record did Fritz Von Erich hold?". The correct answer is that he set the NCAA discus record while at SMU, a record he held for 22 years. This issue's question is what famous movie star turned politician has a brother who was a preliminary wrestler for many years? This one was courtesy of Howard Siegel. No prize for a correct answer...this is just for fun.

Last issue I promised more info on the Trivia book we're putting together. But let's put the final decision upto our readers...there's two ways we can do it. We can put together a book with somewhere between 500-1000 questions complete with answers, and sell it for somewhere around \$4...or we can put together sort of a pop quiz book with around 100-200 questions for say \$1.50, that would contain no answers. The latter would turn into a contest where you sent your answers back in and the top three people would win prizes (1st - cash, 2nd - lottery tickets or something, 3rd - a tape or whatever). Correct answers would be mailed out later. Which way would you rather we handled this? Let me know.

Word in from the Pittsburgh area that WWF jobber Barry O (Randall B. Orton) is facing some charges stemming from a fatal accident on 4-28. He was arrested at a hospital where he was being treated for injuries received in the accident. A passenger in his car, Sherri Jo Bennett was killed. The accident happened near Tempe Arizona. Barry O lives in the Pittsburgh area and the story made local press there.

I just got to see a clip of the eight man tag match they had in Florida recently with the Warriors/Dusty/Nikita vs the four horsemen. At one point, Ego Maniac himself had the four horsemen in the ring by himself, going right down the line giving them his bionic elbow, each of them selling their butts off. I think I've found someone to dislike more than even Vince McMahon jr.

You've heard of those independent promotions that use unknowns with names similar to big name stars? Names like Bulk Bogan, or or King Kong Bordey? Here's one for the record books that should put you on the floor. An independent promotion in Thompsonville, KY called the BWA (no idea what it stands for) is having a card with a bunch of no names, BUT...they are having a midget match with a wrestler called "Little Randy the Macho Man". I smell a lawsuit.

A reminder...I'd like to do a column full of "Things I'd Like to See" or "I wonder Why" type one liners. I'd like it to be mainly reader contributions. We have a few (like three or four) so far. I'll do the piece when I've got enough material to fill a whole page. Send in your thoughts.

And for those of you who would like to run up your phone bill, my number is (309) 289-2662. If you have something on your mind, and would like to call, go ahead. While I'm unemployed, anytime is as good as another to get ahold of me.

Chicago readers, I may be coming to the show on the 24th at the Pavilion. I should know by the time you receive this issue. Jeff has just about got me convinced.

That's about it for this issue. If you have something you want plugged, let me know. That's it for this issue...see you in a couple of weeks...

WRESTLING FORUM V219
Jon Gallagher-Editor
Box 65
Knoxville, IL 61448

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